

CHANCELLOR'S ^{MC}REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER, VOL. 21, NO. 7 | JULY 2022



Summer BAYOU Program, Pg. 3



*** EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP ***

ORLANDO F. MCMEANS, PH.D.
CHANCELLOR-DEAN

RENITA W. MARSHALL, D.V.M.
VICE - CHANCELLOR FOR
ACADEMICS AND STUDENT SUPPORT
SERVICES/ ASSOCIATE DEAN

DE'SHOIN A. YORK, PH.D.
VICE - CHANCELLOR FOR
EXTENSION AND OUTREACH

JOSE U. TOLEDO, PH.D.
VICE - CHANCELLOR FOR
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
DEVELOPMENT

USDA Strengthens Partnerships with 1890s Universities with a new MOU



U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack and Dr. Paul Jones, Chair of 1890s Presidents Council—an organization comprised of presidents and chancellors of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs)—signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to reaffirm and strengthen the ongoing relationship between the 1890s community and USDA through cooperation and partnership. The signing was held in Washington, D.C. on June 14, 2022 where the Secretary and Chairman Jones were joined by USDA Deputy Secretary Jewel Bronaugh and Research, Education, and Economics Under Secretary Chavonda Jacobs-Young.

This MOU also establishes a new 1890 Task Force that will inject energy into USDA's efforts to collaborate with 1890s institutions in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors. The MOU signing followed discussions between USDA leadership and the 1890s Presidents Council as part of continued engagement and discussions with higher education associations to enhance USDA partnerships and investments with Minority-Serving Institutions based on their identified needs.

"This signing reinforces USDA's

commitment to our partners at the 1890s institutions and the communities they serve," said Secretary Vilsack. "1890 universities, have remained the custodians of access to and opportunity for higher education in underserved communities. They are building a path for the next generation of thought leaders, innovators and change makers and USDA will do everything we can to foster that environment."

The 1890 Land-Grant institutions were established under the Second Morrill Act of 1890. USDA has a long history of investing in and supporting our nation's 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, which have been leaders in scientific innovation. As such, the 1890 system has played an important role in building STEM programming for our nation's youth. 1890s institutions also strengthen research, extension and teaching in the food and agricultural sciences, and expand the number of students attracted to careers in agriculture, food, natural resources, and human sciences.

In alignment with the Biden-Harris Administration's Executive Order 13985 on *Advancing Racial Equity and Support*

See USDA partnerships, Page 2

SU Ag Center, Alcorn State University partner to host 1890 Universities Strategy Meeting in NOLA



The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center (Southern University Ag Center) and the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Center at Alcorn State University co-hosted a strategic planning session for 1890 Universities to address the 2022 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) priorities. The event was held at the Omni Hotel in New Orleans, La., on June 7-8, 2022.

The meeting was held to assist in affirming the partnership between the 1890 land-grant universities and USDA with a mutual understanding of how the 1890 universities will contribute to achieving USDA 2022/2023 priorities and for the USDA to understand what the 1890 community needs to be able to maximize their contributions.

Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack and Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Jewel Bronaugh provided remarks during the event. Other USDA leadership, the 1890 Universities Foundation, and 1890 land-grant university presidents and administrators also attended the event.

“It is indeed a pleasure for Southern University, via the Southern University Ag Center and College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences, to be a part of such a historic event whereby the 1890 community provides valuable input as to how we as a community of 19 historically black land-grant institutions can contribute to addressing the key critical priorities of the USDA,” expressed Dr. Orlando F. McMeans, chancellor of the Southern University Ag Center and dean of the College of Ag. “Understanding

that we are uniquely positioned to provide essential services to the underserved and socially disadvantaged population, which we have done so historically in a stellar fashion with limited resources. We are looking forward to not only the dialogue around supporting the USDA’s top priorities, but also offering our collective voice as to what the 1890 priorities are for the upcoming 2023 Farm Bill.”

During the meeting, 1890 member institutions were able to provide feedback and develop plans to collaborate with the USDA on opportunities for mutual support of the agriculture community.

“We are excited to partner with Southern University in this effort as we continue to stay true to the heart of our mission as land-grant institutions — teaching, conducting research, and providing extension services to communities,” said Dr. Felecia M. Nave, president of Alcorn. “For over a century, the 1890 land-grant universities have provided services and resources to help uplift and shape the scientific and agricultural landscapes in the United States and beyond. I consider it a privilege to take part in this meaningful work.”

According to the USDA, it supports the 1890 land-grant institutions through its national program delivering high-quality agricultural research, education, and extension programs and producing skilled graduates in agricultural sciences. The USDA partners with the 19 historically black universities established under the Second Morrill Act of 1890. These institutions strengthen research, extension and teaching in the food and agricultural sciences and attract more students into agriculture, food, natural resources, and human sciences careers.

The 1890 land-grant system consists of the following universities — Alabama A&M, Alcorn State University, Central State University, Delaware State University, Florida A&M University, Fort Valley State University, Kentucky State University, Langston University, Lincoln University, North Carolina A&T State University, Prairie View A&M University, South Carolina State University, Southern University, Tennessee State University, Tuskegee University, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Virginia State University, and West Virginia State University.

USDA partnerships, continue from pg. 1



for Underserved Communities, USDA will continue to advance the goals of equity to better serve the needs of traditionally underserved institutions and communities.

Background:

USDA’s Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement develops and maintains partnerships with the 19 historically black universities (1890 Land-grant System) focused on solutions to challenges facing rural and underserved communities in the United States, and connects those communities to the education, tools and resources available to them through USDA programs and initiatives.

USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture has increased Fiscal Year 2022 investments in many 1890s universities and Extension programs, including 1890 Capacity Building Grants and Extension Services at 1890 Institutions. NIFA’s 1890 Land-Grant Institutions Programs are intended to strengthen research, extension and teaching in the food and agricultural sciences by building the institutional capacities of the 1890 Institutions.

This press release originally appeared on <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases>.



Follow Us
www.suagcenter.com





ACADEMICS



SU College of Ag holds a Successful Summer BAYOU Program



Thirty-seven high schoolers and incoming college freshmen participated in the Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences' 2022 Beginning Agricultural Youth Opportunities Unlimited (BAYOU) Program.

The two-week program was held virtually with 26 participants and in-person on the Baton Rouge campus with 11 participants from June 5 – 17, 2022. The students were able to participate in field trips and learned about career opportunities from professors and staff in the Departments of Family and Consumer Sciences, Urban Forestry and Natural Resources, and Agricultural Sciences.

To qualify for the summer program, students had to have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 and have completed 9th grade. Graduating high school seniors had to have either an ACT (SAT equivalent) composite score of 20 or above, or a 2.5 or greater GPA, or rank in the top 50% of their high school graduation class and require no more than one remedial course to participate in BAYOU. For more information on our BAYOU program, please go to www.suagcenter.com.



The SU College of Ag introduces Youth to Animal Science during Southern Lab's SWAG-STEM Camp

The Southern University Laboratory School conducted its S.W.A.G.-STEM Camp, which featured exciting activities about writing and agriculture. Youth in grades kindergarten through sixth, participated in the summer camp. With the coordination of Dr. Harold Mellieon, Jr., the campers were able to experience various animal species from different research units at Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences and the Ag Center. On June 14, 2022, Mr. Felton DeRouen, II; Ashton Burkhalter; Daja Williams (both ASPIRE intern from LSU); Dr. Jodi Morton; and Dr. Dana Pollard, all with SU animal science, presented four New Zealand rabbit crosses, four chickens (two Silkies and two Leghorns), four Hampshire sheep, and four Spanish kids (baby goats) in a hands-on opportunity for animal education. The campers were beyond elated as they learned and interacted with the livestock.

EXTENSION

SU Ag Center holds its first JAGcation Summer Camp



The Southern University Ag Center held its first JAGcation Summer Camp with 24 campers from June 13-24, 2022, on the Southern University campus.

The two-week, hands-on agricultural experiential learning summer camp was open to students ages 9-11 and focused on various concepts and careers in agriculture and family and consumer sciences. Agricultural specialists, researchers, and academicians also introduced campers to the areas of animal science, entomology, food science, nutrition, plant and soil sciences, and public health among other topics.

“The JAGcation Summer Camp allowed youth to gain experience across the spectrum of LIFE in Ag! It is imperative that our youth understand agriculture is everything and the JAGcation Summer Camp made that impact,” said Si-Arah McCray, JAGcation chair. “The tools provided during the JAGcation Summer Camp proves how important a firm foundation in youth can pique their interest in wanting to have a successful life,” she added.

The camp concluded with a closing ceremony on June 24 where the campers manned exhibits and demonstrated some of activities they participated in for their families.

SU Ag Center host the 2022 St. Helena Ag Day

More than 80 small farmers, youth, and community members participated in the Southern University Ag Center’s 2022 St. Helena Parish Ag Day on June 16th at the Muse 3 Farm, located at 1820 Muse Road, in Greensburg, LA. Interactive events during the Ag Day included a farm tour of Muse 3 Farm’s chickens, rabbits, goats, sheep, and cattle operations; hands-on vegetable and tree planting demonstrations; information on soil health, cover crops, and pasture management; insect identification of beneficial insects and pollinators; and demonstrations of drones used for farm management.

The Ag Day was co-sponsored by the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program, the LSU AgCenter, and the St. Helena Cattle Company. For additional information on the St. Helena Ag Day, contact Burnell Muse, Assistant Area Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources at burnell_muse@suagcenter.com.





Small Farmers received information on USDA programs and services during Community Stakeholders Informational Meeting at SARDI



Nearly 45 small farmers from the Opelousas area received information about programs and services offered by the United States Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development, Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) agencies during a community stakeholders informational meeting on June 30 at the SU Ag Center’s Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Institute (SARDI).

The meeting was the first of 12 sessions, one per month, that will be held throughout the year in parishes around the state.

“The purpose of this meeting is to bring program information to you all so we can improve your access to our programs. Not only that, but to connect you with the decision makers,” said Allison Johnson, Southern University’s USDA Liaison and USDA National Outreach Coordinator-East with the Office of Partnerships and the Public Engagement. “We have to help you guys better understand how to successfully apply for our programs,” she added.

Participants received information on the USDA Rural Development’s Business Development – Intermediary Relending Program, the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) High Tunnel Initiative, and the FSA’s Farm Ownership Loan Program.

Partners for the meeting included: Agromen, Fueling Families, EJMAX Solution, LLC, Muse 3 Farm, the USDA’s Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement, and the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.

For additional information about the additional locations of the upcoming Community Stakeholders Informational Meetings, Allison Johnson, Southern University’s USDA Liaison and USDA National Outreach Coordinator-East at allison.johnson@usda.gov; or Zanetta Augustine, ANR Program Leader and Assistant Specialist at zanetta_augustine@suagcenter.com.

SU Ag Center’s Mobile Unit participated in the Juneteenth Unity Caravan



William Augustine, Project Coordinator, MTEC Technician and Mayor-President Sharon Weston - Broome, City of Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish participated in Juneteenth holiday celebration.

The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center’s, Mobile Technology Education Unit (MTEC) participated in the Juneteenth Unity Caravan with the Baton Rouge African American Museum, CADAV, and Representative C. Denise Marcelle on June 18, 2022.

The caravan paraded from downtown St. Louis Street to Guy Young Park for a Juneteenth celebration at the park.

“Juneteenth commemorates a moment when African Americans were finally emancipated from their enslavement in the United States. It’s a day when everyone can celebrate and reflect on our history and work towards a more peaceful and prosperous community,” said East Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sharon Weston-Broome.

The MTEC Unit is a high-tech training classroom outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment that can travel across the state of Louisiana bringing internet access, hands-on testing, and live instruction, to the most marginalized areas and remote corners of the state.

For additional information about the MTEC Unit or to schedule a training on the Unit, visit <https://suagcertify.com/mobile-lab/> or email william_augustine@suagcenter.com.

The 1890 Center of Excellence at the SU Ag Center held a Garden Day in Scotlandville Garden Park

The 1890 Center of Excellence for Nutrition, Health, Wellness and Quality of Life team at the SU Ag Center partnered with the Scotlandville Community Development Corporation (CDC) to host the first Garden Day at the Scotlandville Garden Park, located at the end of Goudchaux Street in Baton Rouge, LA on June 4th.



Through funding from the Walmart Foundation's Center for Racial Equity, the existing raised beds at the park were refurbished. Members of the community also came out to help clean the beds and planted a variety of vegetables and flowers. The participating families were gifted with their own raised beds to start gardens at their homes.

The produce and flowers planted included: eggplant, strawberries,

peppers, green onions, and hawthorns.

The overall purpose of revitalizing this community garden is to improve access to healthy food, educate the community on nutrition, increase physical activity, and improve mental health.

The team was also able to incorporate AgTech by establishing a hydroponic unit at the Scotlandville CDC Center. This tool is used to increase production while requiring less space, water, and nutrient control. We are excited to see the progress of this work.

SU AG Researchers Met and Planned for the Future



The SU Ag Center held its Research General Meeting on June 29th, led by Dr. Jose U. Toledo, Vice Chancellor for Research and Technology Development. The meeting focused on new strategic initiatives for the upcoming year. Researchers were also able to provide their colleagues with updates on their research projects during the meeting.

1890 Center of Excellence at the SU Ag Center Introduced Youth to Agriculture during the Scotlandville Kids Fest



The Center of Excellence for Nutrition, Health, Wellness and Quality of Life (NHWQL) participated in Scotlandville's Kids fest on June 11, 2022. Families from all over Baton Rouge came out and participated in a day full of activities with food and fun. At the booth, children were able to demonstrate how to properly plant sunflowers and identify the different parts of the plant.

The NHWQL also connected with members of the community about several programs that will be offering this summer.

Funding was provided by the Walmart Foundation Center for Racial Equity and the 1890 Universities Foundation.

For more information, please visit <https://www.suagcenter.com/page/center-of-excellence>.

DNR URBAN FORESTRY INTERNS FROM SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY START SUMMER EXPERIENCE IN MILWAUKEE

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) welcomes two urban forestry summer interns to the agency's Milwaukee office. The internship marks the beginning of a new collaborative program between the department, the USDA Forest Service and Southern University and A&M College, a public historically black land-grant university (HBCU) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The two inaugural interns, Odell Kimble and Kolin Bilbrew, are juniors majoring in forestry at Southern University, the first and only HBCU that offers a degree in urban forestry. They will be working with the [DNR's urban forestry program](#) for eight weeks this summer. Their projects will include assisting DNR staff with urban forest inventory work and helping plan an urban heat map.

"We're pleased to support the career development and education of these two forestry students and hope that this partnership program will be a continued opportunity for future students," said Heather Berklund, Chief State Forester with Wisconsin DNR. "This collaboration supports the shared goals of the DNR and the Forest Service to increase workforce development opportunities in urban forestry, with particular attention to underserved communities."

Support for the two summer interns was provided by the USDA Forest Service through their partnership program

2022 WISCONSIN DNR URBAN FORESTRY INTERNS



Kolin Bilbrew



Odell Kimble

The Wisconsin DNR welcomes the 2022 urban forestry summer interns to the Milwaukee office. *Photo credit: Wisconsin DNR*

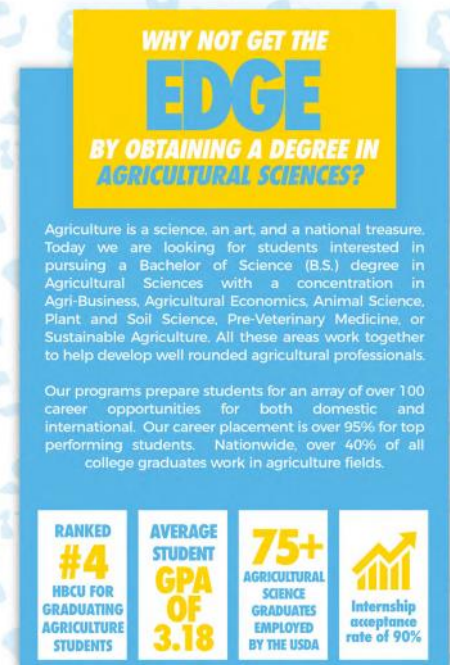
"Educating the Next Generation of Leaders in Forestry, Environment, and Natural Resources" with Southern University, under the direction of Dr. Zhu Ning.

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank Wisconsin DNR and Southern University for their efforts and commitment in making this internship program a reality," said Beatra Wilson, Assistant Director for Urban & Community Forestry, USDA Forest

Service State & Private Forestry. "This partnership between the Wisconsin DNR and Southern University reflects the USDA Forest Service's mission to promote diversity and inclusion by creating a diverse workforce as we seek to grow the next generation of conservation stewards that reflect our society."

Reprint from the DNR Office of Communications Office, June 13, 2022

BY THE THE NUMBERS





MDM
 MILLION DOLLAR MARCH
 Southern University System Foundation

**SU AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
 AND EXTENSION CENTER**

110% Funded!

Our Southern University Ag Center and SUBR College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences Campaign has reached 110% toward its goal! We thank every donor that has contributed towards this campaign and helping us raise over \$110,000 for SUBR Ag. The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center is committed to carrying out its tripartite mission of teaching, research, and extension. Through the engagement of highly skilled faculty, the College of Ag prepares its graduates for an array of competitive careers in the federal, public and private sectors.



P.O. Box 10010
 Baton Rouge, LA 70813

(225) 771-2242

suagcenter.com

@suagcenter

Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences is an entity of Southern University System, Orlando F. Mcmeans, Chancellor-Dean, Dennis Shields, System President, Edwin Shorty, Esq., Chairman, Board of Supervisors. It is issued in furthermore of the Cooperative Extension Work Act of December 1971, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. All educational programs conducted by the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension and the College of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences are provided to people of all ages regardless of race, national origin, or disability.

© 2022 Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences.
 PRODUCED BY THE OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES